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synopsis of Preceding Chapters.) | In her apartment at the Leland Effa, daughter of Lord Ashleigh, is murdered and le Ashleigh diamond necktace stolen. The ew York police place the case in the hands Sanford Quest, known and feared as the aster criminologist of the world. He takes enora, Ella's maid, to his own apartments ad through hypnotism and the use of elecuted the control of the crime, recovers the diamonds and arrests the murderer, Macdougal, enora's husband, though nearly trapped to a death in a tough tenement house while staged in the work.

#### "THE HIDDEN HANDS." CHAPTER VI.

Sanford Quest and Lenora stood side ouse, waiting for the automobile, which ad become momentarily entangled in string of vehicles. A little crowd of cople were elbowing their way out on the sidewalk. The faces of most of tens of tense drama from which they ad just emerged. Quest, who had lit cigar, watched them curiously.

"No need to go into the court," he re-"I could have told you, from look of these people, that Macdoual had escaped the death sentence. They have paid their money-or raththeir time, and they have been cheatof the one supreme thrill."

"Imprisonment for life seems terrible nough," Lenora whispered, shuddering. "Can't see the sense of keeping such "Can't see the sense of keeping such a man alive myself," Quest declared, with purposeful brutality. "It was a cruel murder, fiendishly committed." Lenora shivered Quest laid his fingers for a moment upon her wrist. His voice, though still firm, became almost kind. "Never be afraid, Lenora," he said, to admit the truth. Come, we have fingled with Macdougral now. Imprisonshed with Macdougal now. Imprison-ment for life will keep him from crossng your path again." Lenora sighed. She was almost shamed of her feeling of immense re-

We used to trust that girl, too."
"She had nothing whatever to do with
the actual crime, believe me," Quest assured him. "Besides, you must remem-ber that it was really through her that the man was brought to justice."

the man was brought to justice."
"I harbor no ill-feeling toward the girl," Lord Ashleigh replied. "Nevertheless, the sight of her for a moment was disconcerting.
"I would not have stopped you just how, Mr. Quest," said Lord Ashleigh, but my brother is very anxious to renew his acquaintance with you. I think you met years ago."

bu met years ago."
Sanford Quest held out his hand to
me man who had been standing a little
to the background. Lord Ashleigh

"This is Mr. Quest, Edgar. You may "This is Mr. Quest, Edgar. You may mmember my brother—Professor Ashigh—as a man of science, Quest? He as just returned from South America."
The two shook hands, curiously diverse type, is expression, in all the appurenances of manhood Quest was dark, ith no sign of grayness in his closely-rimmed black hair. His face was an pitome of forcefulness, his lips hard, s eyes brilliant. He was dressed with the utmost care. His manner was self-passessed almost to a fault. The pro-ssor, on the other hand, though his

houlders were broad, lost much of his eight and presence through a very probunced stoop. His face was pale, his outh sensitive. His smile almost omanly in its sweetness. His clothes had a general air of abstraction, seemed, ther to judicate the clerks a profession. ther to indicate the clerical profession is forehead, however, disclosed as he fted his hat, was the forchead of a

scholar.

"I am very proud to make your accumulatance again, professor." Quest baid. "Glad to know, too, that you badn't forgot'en me."

"My dear sir," the professor declared, as he released the other's hand with beeming reluctance, "I have thought about you many times. Your doings have always ben of interest to me. Though I have been lost to the world of civilization for so long, I have correspondents here in New York who keep me in touch with all that is interesting. You have made a great name for yourself, Mr. Quest. You are one of those who have made a great name of those who have made science your bardmalden in a wonderful profession."

"You are very kind, professor," Quest observed, flicking the ash from his rigar.

"Not at all." the other insisted. "Not at all. I have the greatest admiration for your methods." "I am sorry." Quest remarked, "that or first meeting here should be under ach distressing circumstances."

The professor nodded gravely.
"If you'll excuse me, professor," said
uest, "I think I must be getting along. Quest, "I think I must be getting along.
We shall meet again, I trust."
"One moment," the professor begged.
sagerly. "Tell me, Mr. Quest-I want your honest opinion. What do you

your honest opinion.
think of my ape?"
"Of your what?" Quest inquired dubi-

ously.

"Of my anthropoid ape which I have just sent to the museum. You know my claim? But perhaps you would prefer to postpone your final decision until after you have examined the decision itself."

A light broke in upon the crimi-

ologist.
"Of course!" he exclaimed. "For the homent, professor, I couldn't follow tou. You are talking about the skele-on of the ape which you brought home from South America, and which you have presented to the museum here?"

"Naturally," the professor assented, with mild surprise. "To what else? I am stating my case, Mr. Quest, in the North American Review next month, I may tell you however as a fellowmay tell you, however, as a fellow-cientist, the great and absolute truth. My claim is incontestable. My skeleton will prove to the world, without a doubt, the absolute truth of Darwin's

"You must go and see it." the promitted a special examination.

the professor concluded cordially. tifle jealousy?"
"Good-morning, Mr. Quest!"
"There could

took his seat by Lenora's side in the too prevalent. I have suffered from it automobile. The professor rejoined his all my life."

me. He takes no interest in my an-thropoid ape."
"Neither do I," the other replied

The professor sighed as he hailed a

his enthusiasm—I may say that I counted upon it."

"I don't think that Quest has much of that squality to spare," his brother remarked, "for anything outside of bis own criminal hunting."

They entered the taxicab-and were driven almost in silence to the professor's home—a large, rambling old house, situated in somewhat extensive but ill-kept grounds on the outskirts of New York. The Englishman glanced around him, as they passed up the drive, with an expression of disapproval.

val.

"A more untidy looking place than yours, Edgar, I never saw," he declared. "Your grounds have become a jungle. Don't you keep any gardeners?"

"I keep other things," he said serenelly. "There is something in my garden which would terrify your nice Scotch gardeners into fits if they found their way here to do a little tidying up. Come into the library and I'll give you one of my choice cigars. Here's Craig waiting to let us in. Any news, Craig?"

"Nothing has happened, sir," he o let us in. Any news, Craig?"
"Nothing has happened, sir." he
epited. "The telephone is ringing in replied. the study now, though.

Lenora sighed. She was almost ashamed of her feeling of immense relief.

"I am very sorry for him," she murniured. "I wish there were something one could do."

"There is nothing." Quest replied shortly, "and if there were, you would not be allowed to undertake it. You didn't happen to notice the way he looked at you once or twice, did you?"

Once more the terror shone out of lenora's eyes.

"You are right," she faltered. "I had torgotten."

They were on the point of crossing the pavement toward the automobile when Quest felt a touch upon his shoulder. He turned and found Lord Ashleigh standing by his side. Quest glanced toward Lenora.

"Run and get in the car," he whistanding by his side. Quest glanced toward Lenora.

"Run and get in the car," he whistanding by his side. The change in his face as he listened, however, was amazing.

"George," he gasped, "the greatest tragedy in the world has happened! My ape is stolen?" he repeated.

"Macdougal's accomplice," he muttered, "Macdougal's accomplice," he muttered, "We used to trust that girl, too."

"Mill answer it myself." the professor declared, bustling off.

"He hurried across the bare landing and into an apartment which seemed to be half nuseum, half library. There were skeletons leaning in unexpected corners, strange charts upon the walls, as wilderness of books and pamphlets in all manner of unexpected places, mingled with quaintly-carved curios, gods from West African temples, implements of savage warfare, butterfly nets. It was a room which Lord Ashleigh was never able to enter without a shudder.

The professor took up the receiver from the telephone is ringing in the study now, though."

There is nothing."

Quest relief. The hurried across the bare landing and into an apartment which seemed to be half nuseum, half library. There were skeletons leaning in unexpected corners, strange charts upon the walls, as wilderness of books and pamphlets in all manner of unexpected places, mingle do with quaintly-carved curios, special manner of unexpected places, mingl

"The skeleton of my anthropoid ape," the professor continued, his voice growing alike in sadness and firmness. "It is the curator of the museum who is speaking. They have just opened the box. It has lain fon two days in an anteroom. It is empty!"

Lord Ashlleigh muttered something a little vague. The theft of a skeleton scarcely appeared to his unsclentific mind to be a realizable thing. The professor turned back to the telephone.

'Mr. Francis,' he said, "I cannot talk to you. I can say nothing. I shall come to you at once. I am on the point of starting. Your news has overwhelmed me."

He laid down the receiver. He looked around him like a man in a nightmare.
"The taxicab is walting, sir." Craig reminded him.

The man hesitated. There was pro-

test in his face.

"Mr. Sanford Quest, sir?" he muttered, as he followed his master down the hall.

"The great criminologist," the pro-

fessor explained eagerly. Why do you hesitate?"
"I was wondering, sir——" Craig began. The professor waved his servant to

"Do as you are told," he ordered. "Do as you are told, Craig. You others—you do not realize. You cannot understand what this means. Tell the taxi man to drive to the museum. I

am overcome."

The taxicab man drove off, glad enough to have a return fare. In about half an hour's time the professor strode up the steps of the museum and hurried into the office. There and hurried into the office. There was a little crowd of officials there, whom the curator at once dismissed. He rose slowly to his feet. His manner was grave and bewildered.
"Professor," he said, "we will waste no time in words. Look here!"

He threw open the door of an ante-room behind his office. The apart-ment was unfurnished except for one or two chairs. In the middle of the uncarpeted floor was a long wooden box from which the lid had just been

priced, "Yesterday, as you know from my "Y-sterday, as you know from my note," the curator proceeded, "I was away. I gave orders that your case should be placed here that I myself should enjoy the distinction of opening it. An hour ago I commenced the task. That is what I found."

The professor gazed blankly at the county low.

"Nothing left except the smell," a voice from the open doorway remarked.

They glanced around. Quest was standing there, and behind him Lenora. The professor welcomed them eagerly.

"This is Mr. Quest, the great crimband's study," she syngleted to the cura-on in the evening. "He has some speci-

"This is Mr. Quest, the great criminoid gist," he explained to the curator.

Quest strolled thoughtfully around the room, glancing out of each of the windows in turn. He kept close to the wall and when he had finished he drew out a magnifying glass from his pocket and made a brief examination of the box. Then he asked a few questions of the curator, pointed out one of the windows to Lenora and whispered a few Jirections to her. She at once produced what seemed to be a foot rule from the bag which she was carrying, and hurried into the garden.

"I am going to take you into my husband's sludy," she suggested, later on on in the evening. "He has some spectmens of beetles—"

"Bectles," the professor declared, with some excitement, "occupied precisely two months of my time while abroad. By all means, Mrs. Rheinholdt!"

We shall have to go quite to the back of the house," she explained, as she led him along the darkened passage. The professor smiled acquiescently. His eyes rested for a moment upon her necklace.

"You must really permit me, Mrs. Rheinholdt!" he exclaimed, "to admire your wonderful stones! I am a judge of diamonds and those three or suggested. the garden. little invention of my own for

measuring footprints." Quest explained. "No much use here, I am afraid."
"What do you think of the affair so
far, Mt. Quest?" the professor asked

"There could be no other," the pro-The two men shook hands, and Quest fessor declared, sadly, "and it is, alas!

walked off together. "I am disappointed in Mr. Quest! I am very disappointed, indeed. You will not believe what I am going to tell you, but it is truth. He could not conceal it from the truth of two and looked once more out of the window. Presently Lenora the truth of the window. plexity. The professor peered over his shoulder.
"It is the little finger!" he cried—
"the little finger of my ape!"
Quest held it away from his critically.
"From which hand?" he asked.

with a coat over his arm, and was of the darkness! They gripped me by standing now looking at them.

standing now looking at them.

"How extraordinary!" the professor remarked, "Is that you, Craig?"

"Yes, sir!" he replied. "There is a rain storm, so I ventured to bring your mackintosh."

"Very thoughtful," the professor murmured approvingiv. "I have a weakness," he went on, turning to his hostess, "for always walking home after an evening like this. In the day-time I am content to ride. At night I have the fancy always to walk."

"We don't walk half enough," Mrs. Rheinholdt sighed, glancing down at her somewhat portly figure. "Dixon," she added, turning to the footman who had admitted Craig, "take Prof. Ashleigh's servant into the fitchen and seen that he has something before he leaves for home. Now, professor, it you will come this way."

They reached a little room in the far corner of the house. Mrs. Rheinholdt in little groups one was standing about in little groups.

the throat, I suppose it was just for a

"We shall meet again soon, I hope," other motive for the theft besides scientary a door from outside had just been openthe professor concluded cordially. tiffic featousy?"

a door from outside had just been openthe professor concluded cordially. The chose, make use of this to him. means of leaving the house. Mr. Craig

He hurried off. Quest turned to the professor.

"Has he been with you long, this man Craig, professor?" he asked.

The professor's smile was illuminating, his manner simple, but convincing. "Craig," he asserted, "is the best servant, the most honest mortal who ever breathed."

"You think it would be out of the question, then," Quest asked, "to associate him with the crime?"

The professor's confidence was sub-

The professor's confidence was lime.
"I could more readily associate you, myself, or young Mr. Rhe'nholdt here with the affair," he declared.
His words carried weight. The little

"It appears, madam." he announced, "that Mr. Craig left when there was only one person in the kitchen. He said good-night and closed the door

"Step inside, brother," he invited is a personal friend of mine, and a carsestly, almost eagerly, notwithstand-member of a very select little club we may be for social purposes."

"Did he follow your suggestion?" the Lord will help you. Throw your burden away on the threshold." burden away on the threshold.

Sanford Quest asked.

"Of that I am not aware sir," the butler replied. "I left Mr. ("raig with some refreshment, expecting that he would remain until my return, but a few minutes later I discovered that he had left. I will inquire in the kitchen if anything is known as to his movements."

He hurried off. Quest turned to the professor.

"Has he been with you long, this man Craig, professor?" he asked.

The professor's smile was illuminat-

ant stood hesitating.
"Come and tell us your sins," she
"Come and have them for called out. "Come and have them for-given. Come and start a new life in a new world. There is no one here who thinks of the past. Come and seek for-

giveness."
For a moment this waif from the rainswamped world hesitated. The light of an infinite desire flashed in his eyes. Then he dropped his head. These things might be for others. For him there was no hope. He shook his head to the girl, but sank into the nearest seat and on to his knees.

"He repents!" the girl called out.
"Some day he will come! Brothers and sisters, we will pray for him." The rain dashed against the windows. The only other sound from outside was the clanging of the street cars. The girl's voice, frenzied, exhorting, almost hysterical, pealed out to the roof. At every pause the little gathering of men and women goraned in sympathy. The man's frame was shaken with sobs.

(To Be Continued Next Sunday.)

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1-"Stolen!" Mrs. Rheinholdt Shrieked. "Stolen There in the Conservatory.". 2-Measuring the Foot-Print. 3-"Come and Tell Us Your Sins."

CHAPTER VII. The windows of Mrs. Rheinholdt's ner completely changed. Without taktown house were ablaze with light. A crimson drugget stretched down the steps to the curbstone. A long row of automobiles stood waiting. Through the wide-flung doors was visible a pleasant impression of flowers and light and luxury. In the nearer of the two large veception rooms Mrs. Reinholdt herself a woman dark, handsome and in the prime of life, was standing receiving her guests. By her side was her son, whose twenty-first birthday was being the signal and the signal and the passage straight ahead and come the profession of Mrs. Stanford Quest. The professor met the great criminologist and his assistant in the hall room upon their arrival. He took the former at once by the arm.

"Mr. Quest," he began, "in a sense I must apologize for my peremptory mesting a green beetle with yellow spots.

"I am so glad you are interested, professor," she said. "If you don't mind, if will refoin my guests. You will find a shorter way back if you keep along the passage straight ahead and come whose twenty-first birthday was being town to pass the time until the coming of Mr. Stanford Quest. The professor met the great criminologist and his assistant in the hall room upon their arrival. He took the former at once by the arm.

"Mr. Quest," he began, "in a sense I must apologize for my peremptory mesting a green back to Quest's side. He threw away his cigar and rose.

"Nothing there?" he asked laconically. "Not a thing." Lenora admitted.

"Lenora," he decided, "we are up a shorter way back if you keep along the passage straight ahead and come back to her examination of the overturned plants, the mold, and the work send that the coming of Mr. Stanford Quest. The professor met the great criminologist and back to her examination of the overturned plants, the mold, and the work of the search at last, however, and came back to her examination of the overturned plants, the mold, and the work of the search at last, however, and came back to Quest's side. He three way The windows of Mrs. Rheinholdt's "Certainly! steps to the curbstone. A long row of You oth- a woman dark, handsome and in the prime of life, was standing receiving

or Mrs. Kneinholdt declared. Mrs. Rheinholdt breathed a sigh of relief as she greeted her new arrivals. The professor made himself universal-'y agreeable in a mild way, and his presence created even more than the sensation which Mrs. Rheinholdt and Rheinholdt asked quickly. "Have you

Rheinholdt," he exclaimed, "to admire your wonderful stones! I am a judge of diamonds, and those three or four in

the center are. I should judge, unique."
She held them out to him. The professor laid the end of the necklace
gently in the palm of his hand and examined them through a horn-rimmed must go and see it." the proinsisted. "You shall be perinsisted examination."

The criminologist shook his head.
"Incomprehensible," he confessed.
"The distribution of you," Quest murmured,"

The criminologist shook his head.
"Incomprehensible," he confessed.
"The criminologist shook his head."
"The criminologist shook his head."
"The criminologist shook his head."
"The crimin

A newsboy thrust a paper at them. apologized as she switched on the elec-discussing the affair. The men had behind him. It is impossible to say Quest glanced at the headlines. Lenora tric lights.

The professor nodded. His general attitude toward the forthcoming exhibition was merely one of politeness. As the iirst case opened, however, his manner completely changed. Without tak-

whose twenty-first birthday was being celebrated.

"I wonder whether that professor of "I wonder whether that professor of incoming guests slackened for a moment.

"He hates receptions," the boy replied, "but he promised he'd come. I never thought, when he used to drill science into us at the lectures, that rooms the younger people were into us at the lectures, that he was going to be such a tremendous big pot."

"A long the rain-swept causeway or may one affair until I have a clean slate. There's your skeleton still bothethe professor. However, where's the lady who was robbed?"

"I will take you to her," the professor treplied.

"I'will take you to her," the professor treplied.

I'will take you to her," the professor treplied.

I'will take you to her," the pro

he was going to be such a tremendous big pot."

Mrs. Rheinholdt's plump fingers toyed for a moment complacently with the diamonds which lung from her neck.

"You can never tell, in a world like, this," she murhured.

"Here he is, mother!" the young man broke off in the middle of his sentence. He, too, like many others in the room, felt a sudden thrill thought he'd keep his word."

Mrs. Rheinholdt's salvinged her most end.

"I wonder where mother is?" he remarked. "She told me—"

The young man broke off in the middle of his sentence. He, too, like many others in the room, felt a sudden thrill almost of horror at the sound which rang without warning upon their ears thought he'd keep his word."

Mrs. Rheinholdt assumed her most encouraging and condescending smile as she held out both hands of the protessor.

"It is perfectly sweet of you, profestor" Mrs. Lheinholdt declared.

Mrs. Rheinholdt declared.

Mrs. Rheinholdt declared.

"It is perfectly sweet of you, profestor" Mrs. Lheinholdt declared.

Mrs. Rheinholdt declared.

"There are four entrances altogether." lapse. Somehow or other, they got her he into an easy chair.
"My jewels!"
diamonds!"

lost them?" "Stolen!" Mrs. Rheinholdt shrieked.
"Stolen there in the conservatory!"
They gazed at her open-mouthed, in-

credulous. Then a still, quiet voice from the outside of the little circle inter-vened. ened.

\*Instruct your servants, Mr. Rheinand Lenora disappeared. They all looked eagerly at the criminologist on his

"I had just taken the professor into the little room my husband used to would be through this conservatory and would be through this conservatory and would be through this conservatory and out of that door. This is a path lead-plained, her voice still shaking with agitation. "I left him there to examine some specimens of beetles. I thought that I would come back through the conservatory which is the quickest way."

Mrs. Rheinholdt shook her head.

"The servants might overstonally "she some specimens of beetles. I thought that I would come back through the conservatory, which is the quickest way. Conservatory, which is the quickest way.

I was about half way across it when suddenly I heard the switch go behind me and all the electric lights were turned out. I couldn't imagine what had happened. While I hesitated I saw—"

The butter stepped forward. He was looking a little grave.

"I ought, perhass to inform you.

fessor pronounced. "I remember now that I had no change with which to pay him. I must go back. Look after my brother. And, Craig, telephone at once to Mr. Sanford Quest. Ask him to meet me at the museum in twenty minutes. Tell him that nothing must stand in the way, Do you hear?"

The discussing the affair. The men had trooped toward the conservatory, but the professor met them on the portals. "It is a queer little place to bring you to," she said, "but my husband used to spend many hours here, and he would never allow anything to be moved. The see, the specimens are in these cases."

The discussing the affair. The men had trooped toward the conservatory, but therefore, by which exit he left the professor met them on the portals. "It suggest," he said courtecuty, "that we leave the conservatory exactly as it is until the arrival of Mr. Sanford Quest. It will doubtless aid him in-his investigations if nothing is disturbed. All the remaining doors are locked as the feather than the professor met them on the portals. "It suggest," he said courtecuty, "that we leave the conservatory of the reception here to-night, he would not think of using the moved. The see, the specimens are in these cases."

All the remaining doors are locked as a list in possible to say.

The distribution of the conservatory is therefore, by which exit he left the reception here to-night, he would not think of using the affair. The men had trooped toward the conservatory, but the professor met them on the portals.

Suggest, he said courtecuty, "that we leave the conservatory as it is until the arrival of Mr. Sanford Quest. It will doubtless aid him in-his investigations if nothing is disturbed.

All the remaining doors are locked as a conservatory.

All the remaining doors are locked as a conservatory. that no one can escape if by any chance they should be in hiding!" They all agreed without dissent, and

there was a general movement toward there was a general movement toward the buffet to pass the time until the coming of Mr. Stanford Quest. The pro-fessor met the great criminologist and his assistant in the hall room upon their arrival. He took the former at once

summon your aid."
Sanford Quest nodded shortly.
"As a rule," he said, "I do not care to take up one affair until I have a clean slate. There's your skeleton still bothering me, professor. However, where's the lady who was robbed?"
"I will take you to her," the professor replied.

looked around among the little knots way to the conservatory. He requested of people.

"I wonder where mother is?" he re-through the door by which she had entered and stop at the precise spot where the assault had been made upon her. There were one or two plants knocked down from the tiers on the right-hand side, and some disturbance in the mold side, and some disturbance in the molu-where some large palms were growing. Quest and Lenora together made a close investigation of the spot. After-ward, Quest walked several times to

> There are four entrances altogether, he remarked, as he lit a cigar and glanced around the place. "Two lead into the gardens—one is locked and the other isn't—one connects with the back of the house—the one through which you came, Mrs. Rheinholdt, and the other leads into your reception room, into which you passed after the assault. I shall now be glad if you will permit me to extimite the gardens outside for a few thinutes, alone with my assistant, if you weeks. you please. For almost a quarter of an hour Quest

the house," the professor suggested.
"No one must leave it until we have "It seems to me," he remarked, "that heard your mother's story."

Thad just taken the professor into quickest way to reach Mayton avenue

"I ought, perhass, to inform you, madam, and Mr. Quest," he said, "that I did, only a short time ago, suggest to the professor's servant—the man who brought your mackintosh, sir," he add-

Quest nodded absently.
"My assistant and I," he announced,
"would be glad to make a further examination of the conservatory, if you
will kindly leave us alone."
They obeyed without demur. Quest
took a seat and smoked calmly, with
his eyes fixed upon the roof. Lenora
went back to her examination of the
overturned plants, the mold, and the
whole ground within the immediate en-

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